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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 1/24/2007

SPONSOR Vaughn LAST UPDATED HB 94

SHORT TITLE Low-Vision Clinic Program SB

ANALYST McOlash

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY07	FY08		
	\$10.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From
Public Education Department (PED)

Responses Not Received From
Higher Education Department (HED)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 94 appropriates \$10,000 from the General Fund to the New Mexico School for the Blind and Visually Impaired (NMSBVI) for expenditure in FY 2008 for a Low-Vision Clinic Program (LVC) for visually impaired students

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$10,000 contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the General Fund . Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY 2008 shall revert to the General Fund.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

Statewide low vision services do not exist, currently, in New Mexico - one of the few states without such services. With the development of this clinic, students statewide can begin to receive comprehensive examinations unique to individuals with low vision. NMSBVI is attempting to offer services with volunteers and donated equipment. This \$10,000 would assist with payments to doctors and low-vision consultants.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

The New Mexico School for the Blind and Visually Impaired has received a small grant of \$10,000 from the PNM Resources Foundation for the Low-Vision Clinic. The money from the grant, entitled: *New Mexico Low Vision Clinic, NMSBVI Access to Learning*, will be used to purchase equipment for the clinic.

BM/sb